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HANDLER OF THE DEAD: A RATHER IGNOBLE POSITION FOR A MAN SOON TO BECOME LEGEND. BUT THEN, NO ONE EVER SAID THAT WAR IS LONG ON LOGIC. JUST ASK ULYSSES HAZARD, A MAN WHO HAD TO FIGHT NOT ONLY THE ENEMY -- BUT HIS OWN COUNTRY -- TO EARN THE...

CODE NAME: gravedigger

ENGLAND, 1942:

THE ROAR OF A *GENERAL PURPOSE VEHICLE* DISTURBS THE OTHERWISE PEACEFUL NIGHT...

YOU CAN TAKE IT *SLOW*, PRIVATE -- I AIN'T *THAT* ANXIOUS TO REACH THE AIRFIELD!

JACK C. HARRIS - WRITER
DICK AYERS & ROMEO TANGHAL - ARTISTS
BEN ODA - LETTERER
JERRY SERPE - COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ - EDITOR

AIRFIELD 1 KM

I KNOW, CAP'N, SIR... BUT IT'S JUST SO EXCITING *THINKING* ABOUT GOING ON *SECRET MISSIONS* LIKE YOU DO!

CAPTAIN ULYSSES HAZARD OFTEN HOLDS THE FATE OF *HUNDREDS* IN HIS HANDS... BUT SOON, ONLY *ONE MAN* WILL BE HIS CHARGE... A VERY SPECIAL MAN...

THE PRESIDENTIAL PERIL

MEN OF WAR, Vol. 4, No. 24, January, 1980. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Application to Mail at Second Class Pending at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1979 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A

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DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU *HEAR*, ALBERT -- IT AIN'T NEARLY SO WONDERFUL AT THE FRONT!

I'D SURELY LOVE TO FIND OUT, SIR!

LOOK OUT!

SKREEE

KEEP *LOW*, PRIVATE -- THEY CUT US OFF *ON PURPOSE!*

CAPTAIN ULYSSES HAZARD? WE -- *UNNNHH!*

KIKK

YOU'VE GOT YOUR *MAN*, SOLDIER -- BUT NOT FOR *LONG!*

BUT I DON'T CONSIDER THESE INTRODUCTIONS *FRIENDLY* -- *HEY!*

A TWIST OF HIS POWERFUL ARM, AND GRAVEDIGGER SENDS THE TWO MILITARY POLICEMEN ON A *COLLISION COURSE!*

KLUNK

WOWIE! THAT WAS THE MOST ACTION I'VE SEEN SINCE I'VE BEEN IN THIS MAN'S ARMY!

WHAT'S THE IDEA, YOU TWO -- WHY THE AMBUSH?

WE... HAD ORDERS... STOP YOU!

H.Q. TO M.P. ONE! COME IN!

REPORT PROGRESS... BRING IN CAPTAIN ULYSSES HAZARD ...ORDERS DIRECT FROM UNDERSECRETARY OF WAR!

THE UNDERSECRETARY! THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!

VAULTING INTO THE M.P.'S JEEP...

GOTTA USE THIS, FELLAS--THE UNDERSECRETARY WANTS ME ...AND HE'S GONNA GET ME!

HEY! THAT'S OUR JEEP!

YEAH, WELL YOU SEE, HIS JEEP GOT BUSTED UP SOMEHOW...

LESS THAN TEN MILES EAST, THE GREAT CITY OF LONDON IS SILENTLY PRAYING THAT THERE WILL BE NO AXIS AIR STRIKES THIS NIGHT... AND FAR BELOW THAT APPREHENSIVE CITY LIES THE ALLIES' WAR ROOM...

BE THAT AS IT MAY, MR. UNDERSECRETARY-- THE CAPTAIN IS ASSIGNED TO ME UNDER THE ALLIES JOINT WAR EFFORT!

AND THE MISSION HE WAS ASSIGNED WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE!

THE MISSION I HAVE FOR HIM IS MORE VITAL --BELIEVE ME!

YOU DID WHAT? HOW DARE YOU SEND M.P.'S AFTER CAPTAIN HAZARD!

YOU SENT HIM OUT IN A JEEP WITH NO RADIO-- HE'S AN AMERICAN SOLDIER-- AND I HAVE A MISSION FOR HIM!

SUDDENLY--WITH A SOUND OF METAL HITTING METAL...

LET ME HEAR IT, MR. UNDERSECRETARY! LET ME HEAR ALL ABOUT THIS MISSION THAT'S SO ALL-FIRED IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAD TO HAVE ME AMBUSHED LIKE SOME ESCAPED CONVICT!

KRANG

GRAVEDIGGER!

YOU'RE GOING ON *GUARD* DUTY, CAPTAIN-- *GUARDING THE PRESIDENT!*

THE PRES-- YOU MEAN *F.D.R.?*

AND, AS IF IN ANSWER...

YES, CAPTAIN -- *FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT*-- AND WE THINK YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO GUARD HIM IS *INTERFERENCE!*

WHO--!?

AH, YES... THE GENTLEMEN FROM THE *SECRET SERVICE...*

THEY SEEM TO FORGET THAT, WHILE IN ENGLAND, *I* AM IN CHARGE OF *ALL* CIVILIAN - MILITARY OPERATIONS ...

... AND *I* INSIST CAPTAIN HAZARD BE ASSIGNED TO YOUR SECURITY TEAM -- AS *MY* REPRESENTATIVE!

WELL... WELL...

LOOKS AS IF THE UNDERSECRETARY TRUSTS MY... *ABILITIES*... MORE THAN HE'S EVEN MENTIONED TO *ME!*

AN HOUR LATER, ON A DARK AND FOGGY LONDON STREET...

A MAN PAUSES... WHILE TWO SOLDIERS PASS BY WITHOUT TAKING NOTICE OF THE CLANDESTINE MOVES OF THE DARK STRANGER...

AND NO ONE *NOTICES* THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE MAN INTO THE SHADOWED ENTRANCE!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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ELASTIC

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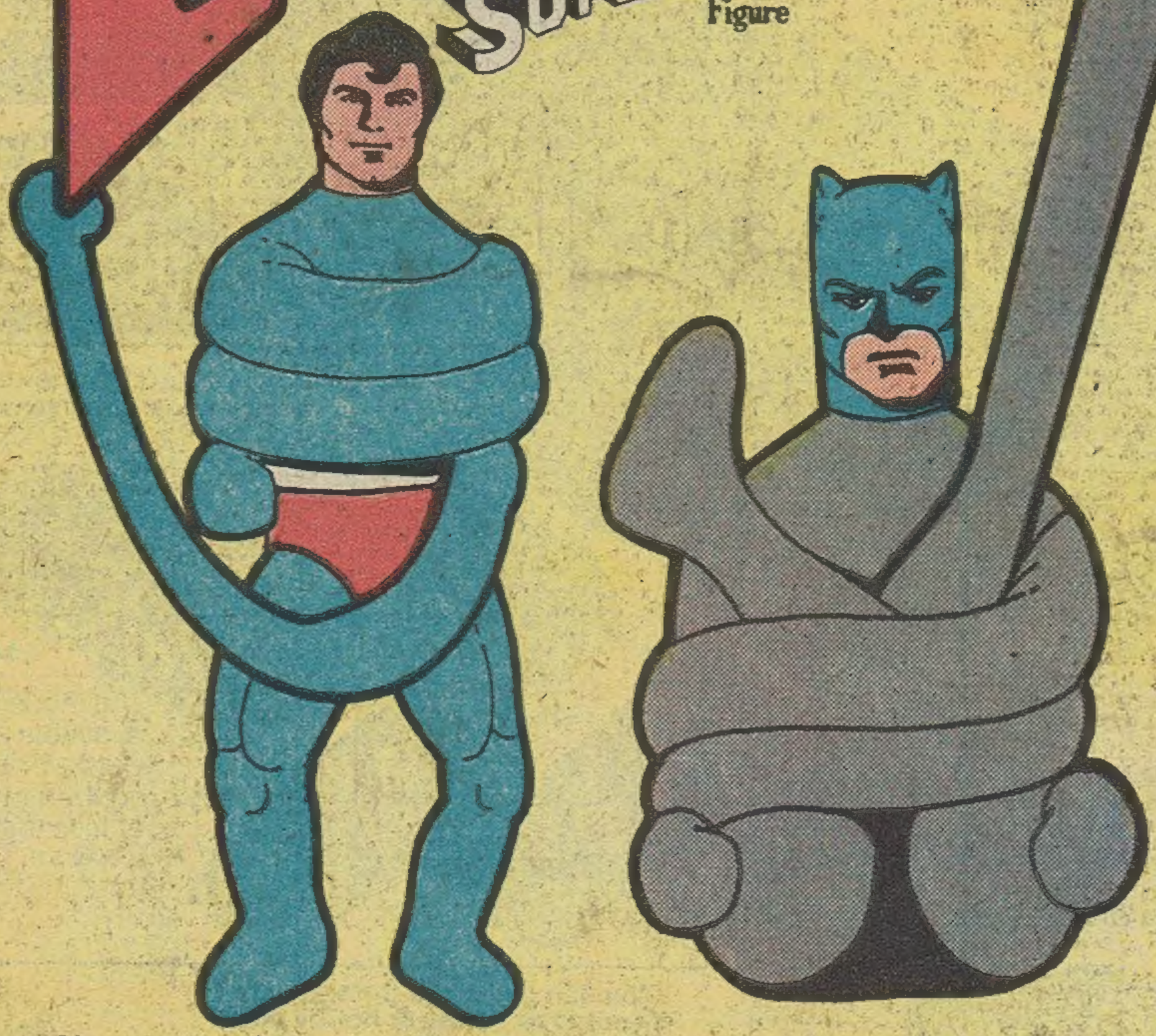

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Pat. Pend.

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AND FAR BELOW THE STREET...

HEIL HITLER! ALL GOES WELL, I SEE... YOU HAVE *SUCCESSFULLY INFILTRATED* THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE...

YES, BUT WE HAVE BEEN HANDED A *COMPLICATION* BY THE UNDERSECRETARY OF WAR...

A LONE COMMANDO HAS BEEN *ADDED* TO THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY FORCE--ONLY A *SINGLE MAN*, BUT HIS PRESENCE WILL CALL FOR THE *ALTERNATING* OF OUR PLAN TO *REPLACE* THE REST OF THE *REAL* U.S. SECRET SERVICE MEN BEFORE THE MEETING...

WITH FRIGHTENINGLY PRECISE MOVES, THE NAZI UNDERGROUND MEMBERS ALTER THEIR PLANS... ADDING DISGUISES TO THEIR ALREADY WELL-ORDERED SECRET MOVES!

AND ACROSS THE FOG-ENSHROUDED CITY, IN THE WAR ROOM...

THE SECRET SERVICE IS *EFFICIENT*, CAPTAIN, BUT *YOU* ARE NEEDED BECAUSE OF THE *UNUSUAL* NATURE OF THIS MEETING...

THIS IS TO BE A SECRET *EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION* ON THE *HIGHEST* POSSIBLE LEVEL--FROM *LEADER* TO *LEADER!*

HAVING THE ALLIES' MOST POWERFUL HEADS OF STATE AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS OPERATIONS WE COULD UNDERTAKE. DANGEROUS, BUT NECESSARY FOR THE OVERALL WAR EFFORT!

THE ELABORATE PLAN GOES INTO ACTION... AND, FEARING LEAKS IN SECURITY, *THREE* AUTOMOBILES DEPART FROM THE U.S. MILITARY AIRFIELD, AND ANOTHER THREE FROM #10 DOWNING STREET...

FOUR OF THE VEHICLES ARE *EMPTY* OF PASSENGERS--BUT *TWO* ARE TRANSPORTING THE ALLIES' MOST IMPORTANT LEADERS TO A *SECRET RENDEZVOUS*...

AND AS MIDNIGHT APPROACHES...

THE LIGHTS CUTTING THROUGH THE THE BLACKNESS ARE *EXTINGUISHED* AS A TRANSPORT CROSSES THE PATH OF THE TWO CARS...

AND THE RENDEZVOUS IS MADE...

HALT! STATE THE *PASSWORD* AND *IDENTIFY* YOURSELF!

CODE: *ATLANTIC!* UNDERSECRETARY OF WAR!

IN THE HUSHED, COLD CRISPNESS OF THE NIGHT AIR, RAPID INTRODUCTIONS ARE MADE...

MR. *PRESIDENT*... MR. *PRIME MINISTER*-- GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SIRS...

THIS IS *MY* AGENT--*CAPTAIN ULYSSES HAZARD*-- WHO IS ASSIGNED AS YOUR PROTECTION!

AN *HONOR*, SIRS!

AT *EASE*, CAPTAIN HAZARD, IT IS A *PLEASURE* MEETING YOU!

I BELIEVE I RECALL SOME *INTERESTING REPORTS* REGARDING YOU PASSING MY DESK...

BELIEVE *ME*, SIR... THE HONOR OF THIS MEETING IS *MINE!*

SHALL WE *PROCEED*, GENTLEMEN?

THE HILL HOUSE WHERE THE MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE IS *SECURED*... OR SO I'M INFORMED BY THE *SECRET SERVICE!*

MANY KILOMETERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MEETING PLACE...

SECRET SERVICE ONE TO MEETING PLACE-- NORTH ROAD *SECURE*... PROCEEDING TO RENDEZVOUS...

BUT THINGS ARE *NOT* AS SECURE AS THEY SEEM...

HEY!

SKREEEECH

FROM THE INNOCENT-LOOKING STONE BRIDGE, THE NAZI UNDERGROUND FORCE --ON COMMAND FROM THE TRAITOROUS SECRET SERVICE MAN -- SWARMS OVER THE AUTO EN MASSE!

QUICKLY! NO NOISE! COOPERATE AND NO ONE WILL BE HARMED!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF--!?

NOW, SECONDS LATER, THE SECRET SERVICE TEAM ASSIGNED TO *"PROTECT"* THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS MANNED *ENTIRELY* BY *NAZI AGENTS!*

VRROOOOM

HIGH ON A HILLSIDE, A QUAINT HOUSE IS NOW A SECRET MEETING PLACE... GUARDED FROM FRONT, BACK...

...AND *ABOVE!*

REAL *CLASSY*, MR. UNDERSECRETARY! "GUARDING THE PRESIDENT" HUH? SO I *STILL* END UP OUT IN THE WOODS!

HMMM... A CAR IS PULLING UP. IT LOOKS LIKE THE LAST OF THE *SECRET SERVICE*...

THEY'VE JUST *CLEARED* THE NORTH ROAD...

YEAH, THAT'S THE GUY WHO WAS *BAD-MOUTHING* ME EARLIER. I'LL BET MY BEING UP *HERE* WAS HIS-- *HEY!*

THOSE SECRET SERVICE FELLOWS ALL DRESS *ALIKE*, BUT I'D *SWEAR* THAT THE *REST* OF THAT TEAM ARE *DIFFERENT MEN!*

THEY'RE NOT THE GUYS I MET EARLIER!

AND THE UNDERSECRETARY WAS SO CONCERNED WITH HAVING *ME* ON THIS MISSION -- HE DOESN'T *NOTICE!*

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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FLASH IS IN PURSUIT OF MEDUSA ... A WOMAN "WHOSE STARE TURNS PEOPLE INTO STONE."

GOTTA HURRY OR MEDUSA WILL TURN THAT PARADE INTO STATUES.

LOOK...THAT STREAK OF LIGHT IS HEADING RIGHT FOR US!!

THAT'S NO STREAK OF LIGHT. THAT'S THE FLASH!

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

NOT EVEN THE FLASH... CAN WITHSTAND MY STONY STARE.

I CAN FEEL MYSELF SLOWING DOWN.

MEDUSA'S GOT HER EYES ON ME.

GOT TO DO SOMETHING...

...FAST!

LOOK!

HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES!

APPLE AND CHERRY.

BEST SIGHT I'VE SEEN ALL DAY. I LOVE THE *LIGHT, TENDER CRUST.*

AND THE *REAL FRUIT FILLING.*

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY EYES OFF YOU, FLASH.

BUT *HOSTESS FRUIT PIES* ARE TOO GOOD TO IGNORE!

I WAS COUNTING ON THAT.

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WHO IS STARMAN™

ON SALE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE OCTOBER 25TH!! DON'T DARE MISS IT!!

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HUH--!? THAT *TRANSPORT!* IT'S ON THE *NORTH ROAD*-- THE ONE THE SECRET SERVICE GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO KEEP *CLEAR!*

I'LL BET IT'S FILLED WITH *RAIDERS*--HEADED FOR THE HILL HOUSE!

HAVE TO STOP THIS THING *SILENTLY*--CAN'T ALERT THE AGENTS AT THE HOUSE THAT THEIR *BACK-UP* IS ABOUT TO BE *FOULED UP!*

HIS BOOTS HIT THE GRAVELED ROAD, AND HE *LEAPS* TO THE RUNNING BOARD...

HEY, *DRIVER*-- YOU MISSED MY *STOP!*

NO! IT CAN'T BE *YOU!*

THE PRIVATE PANICS-- AND HIS LEG MUSCLES TIGHTEN AS THE GAS PEDAL GOES TO THE FLOOR--!

SCREEEEEECH

THE WHEELS BURN THROUGH THE DIRT, AND THE GRAVEDIGGER'S HANDS SQUEEZE FOR DEAR LIFE!

ALBERT-- MY DRIVER!

SCREEEEEEEEE

GET *OFF*, MAN -- I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO *KILL* YOU!

HIS GRIP WRENCHED FREE, HAZARD HITS HARD!

WHUMP

OFF--!

IGNORING THE PAIN ALL THROUGH HIS BATTERED BODY, THE LONE COMMANDO DIGS HIS BOOTS INTO THE HILLSIDE..!

I CAN *STILL* CATCH HIM -- STOP HIM -- IF I KEEP *MOVING!*

A SECOND DARING LEAP...

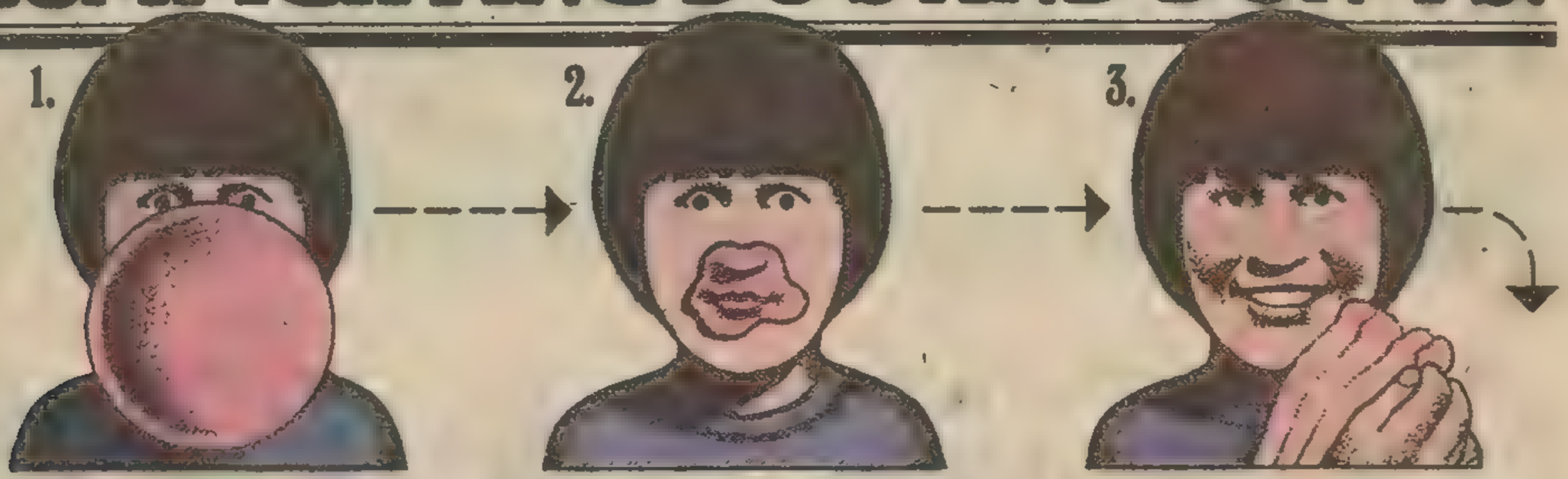
YOU *HAD* YOUR LAST CHANCE, MAN -- IT'S THE LAST ONE YOU'LL EVER *TAKE!*

BLAM

KABEEEE

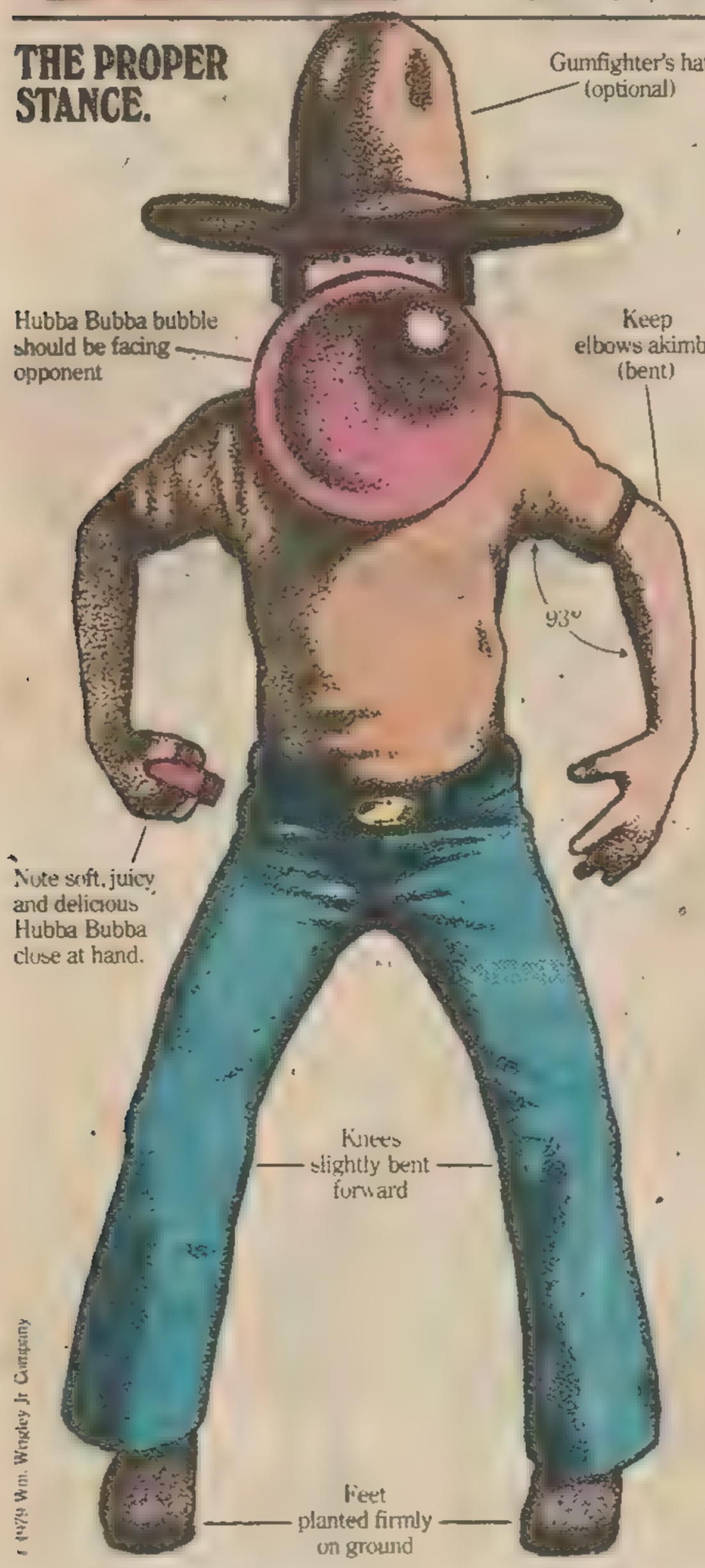
CONCLUDED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.



The first thing to do—pick the right chew: new Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.


Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
93°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

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YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

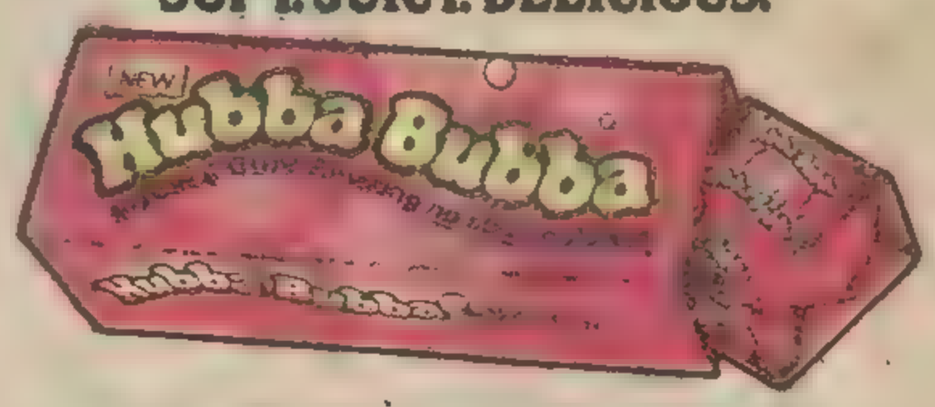
The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not new soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

So pick up a pack of new Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great, big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.



BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

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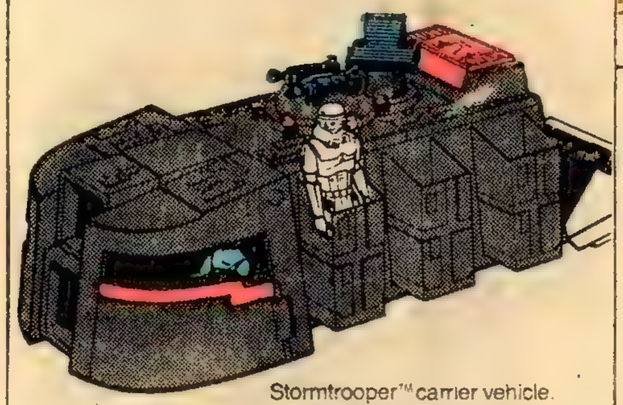
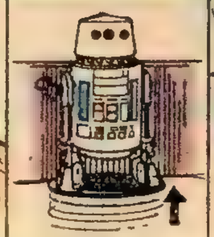
NEW STAR WARS™ IMPERIAL TROOP TRANSPORTER™



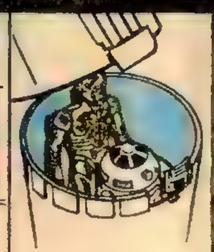
Stormtrooper™ carrier vehicle. Holds up to 11 action figures! Plays six sounds from Star Wars™ including R2-D2,™ C-3PO™ and Stormtrooper.™ *Assembly required.*

Star Wars™ action figures not included. Batteries not included.

Lever makes Jawa™ move, knock over & capture R2-D2.™

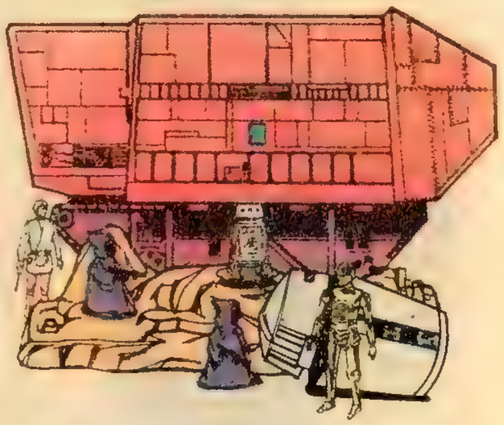


Elevator lifts up into Sandcrawler™



Escape landing pod

NEW STAR WARS™ LAND OF THE JAWAS™



An action playset to recreate the adventures of the mysterious Jawas™ and their Sandcrawler™ on Tatooine™ desert! *Assembly required.*

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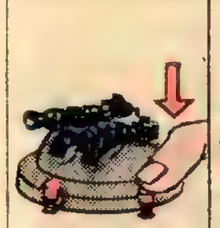

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Movable Laser Gun™ and radar dish

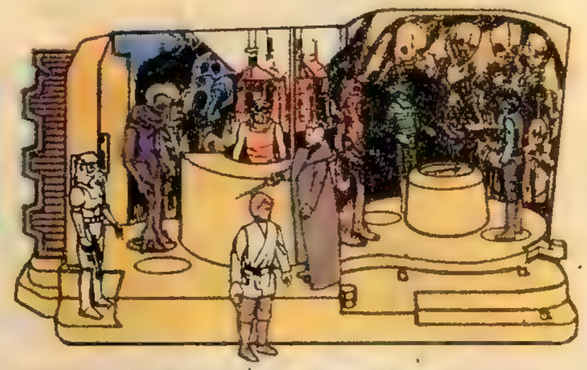
Place figure in driver's seat

STAR WARS™ RADIO-CONTROLLED R2-D2™

You can make the lovable little droid come to life with wireless radio control! He beeps, flashes his light, turns his head and moves in all directions! 8" Tall.

Batteries not included.

NEW STAR WARS™ CREATURE CANTINA™



Relive the fun of that crazy and weird Cantina™ and its creatures. Exciting playset has action lever movement for mock battles and automatic door action.

Assembly required

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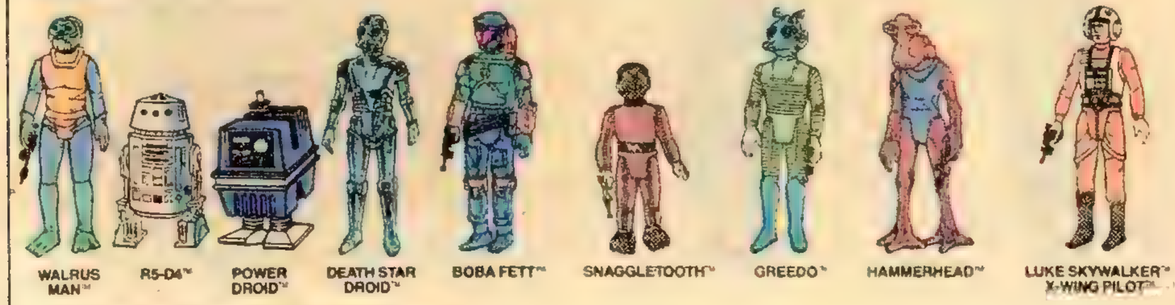
ALL-NEW STAR WARS™ ACTION FIGURES

Featuring four Cantina™ Creatures and Star Wars™ newest villain – Boba Fett.™ *(Each sold separately.)*



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SUPERBOY LEAVES THE LEGION!?
WHY?
BOTH ON SALE OCTOBER 25th

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I RELEASED THE *HOOD SPRINGS* JUST IN *TIME*-- IT MAKES A *DANDY SHIELD!*

NOW IF I CAN REMEMBER ALL I LEARNED IN THE *MOTOR POOL*...

VIPP

TZING

SPRANG

TZEEE

...I CAN *STOP THIS TRUCK!*

DID IT!

MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE DRIVER IS SECURED...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NAZIS *PROMISED* YOU, ALBERT-- BUT YOU SHOULD LEARN NOT TO TRUST THE WORST PACK OF *RACISTS* THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

THE...THE *REAL* SECRET SERVICE MEN!

THEN...THIS *WASN'T* A BACK-UP FORCE FOR AN ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT!

THAT'S *RIGHT*, MAN-- YOU'VE BEEN ON THE WILDEST GOOSE CHASE EVER-- AND *YOU'VE LEFT THE PRESIDENT UNPROTECTED! HA HA HA HA!*

NEXT:

"DEATH IN THE HOUSE ON THE HILL!"

BATTLE LINES

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Dear Mr. Levitz,

"An Angel Named Marie" was one of Jack Harris' best scripts in *MEN OF WAR*. It was an excellent blend of war action and war intrigue. I must admit that Mr. Harris' sub-plots are causing anticipation; I'm wondering what will become of Professor Noir's atomic secrets and Josef Goebbels' experimental creature.

Neatly interwoven within this tale was Hazard's chance teaming with Mlle. Marie and her brigade. The animosity displayed between the two allies made this story quite unusual. You could really sense the bitterness and mistrust everyone had for one another in Nazi occupied territories. The traitor within the ranks really enhanced this feeling.

Ayers and Tanghal produced their usual excellence. Your talents aren't taken lightly, gentlemen, I'm just waiting for the day when Joe Kubert finds time to pencil one Gravedigger script!

I'm firmly convinced Hazard works best while teaming with others, be it with the French or the English. How about teaming him with a good old American? One that strikes my fancy is frogman Robert Starr. Hazard's about due for an adventure in the Philippines or Japan, I'd say.

A.G. Giroux
7609 West Weldon
Phoenix, AZ 85033

We do have an American in mind to join forces with Hazard, but in the European theatre, not the Pacific. Keep your eyes peeled for #26, with a special guest appearance by none other than the star of DC's biggest battle book—Sgt. Rock!—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

Ulysses Hazard's scar is a little corny, but so long as its similarity to a grave marker is downplayed, I can overlook it.

As a definite non-fan of Mlle. Marie, I thought Gravedigger was a little too nice to her. Wasn't he acting just a bit out of character? Marie wasn't out of character; she's still the warped lady who chauvanistically places "La Belle France" above everything else. I've learned to dislike her since *STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES* #198-200, and enjoy doing so.

Enemy Ace was his usual great self, the best argument for the futility of war. If he survived his war, the Weimar Republic and Nazism must have depressed him heavily. I prefer to believe he survived World War One only in spirit.

Why not send Wayne Clifford to Stalingrad for a multi-part adventure?

Gary Norman
1125 9th Avenue
Laurel, MS 39440

Wayne won't be off to Stalingrad because he's just back from Leningrad, logically enough, and we have plans for him to file an unusual **Dateline:Frontline** *next time. But more on that in the next issue, when we run the results of our contest.—PL.*

* * * * *

Paul,

I'm back! Did you even notice that I had gone away?

My intention was to discontinue purchasing your book and pick up all future copies from the back issue files of The Cartoon Museum in Orlando. In this way I hoped to show my dissatisfaction with your lead feature. However, looking over the sales of the other war books, I realized you desperately need my money so I will try bribery: when you discontinue Gravedigger, I will subscribe.

Jerry certainly outdid himself on the Rosa finale. My only regret is that the story was cut into two parts. Paul Kupperberg is a worthy successor to Robert Kanigher. More!

Robin Snyder
Box 8
Enterprise, FL 32725

No plans to cancel Gravedigger yet, Robin, but just to make you feel your getting your 40¢ worth, we're tossing another two-part Rosa story at you beginning this issue. Hope it evens things out.—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

MEN OF WAR #19 was the best issue of *MEN OF WAR* since its beginning. The art of Ayers and Tanghal has been improving greatly over the past few issues, and Jack Harris' idea of the cross on Gravedigger's face was brilliant! I loved it.

The comeback of Marie was beautiful. I haven't seen her since *UNKNOWN SOLDIER* #214. I would like to see more of her, especially in *MEN OF WAR*. The two characters go beautifully together.

One more thing: why doesn't Joe Kubert do *MEN OF WAR* from cover to cover? I'm not complaining, but I think Kubert would do it better.

Bernie Ruddy
88 Redlands Road
West Roxbury, MA 02132

We'd love to have Joe Kubert do anything from cover to cover, but, unfortunately for comics fans, he's moved beyond being just an artist to a multi-faceted life that includes running a school for cartoonists, supervising animation work, and editing for DC. The combination makes sustained art chores impossible, and even occasionally results in Joe having to ease up on his cover chores. Luckily, when that happens we have able assistance from pinch-hitters like Dick Giordano, who inked this month's cover over Joe's pencils while the old master grabbed a jet to Argentina for a convention, and George Evans, who handled next issue's cover.

* * * * *

NEXT MONTH: The Presidential Peril comes to a head, Rosa tells more of his story, and we'll all have a smashing good time. That is, if you remember to join us for MEN OF WAR #25 in thirty days!—Paul Levitz.

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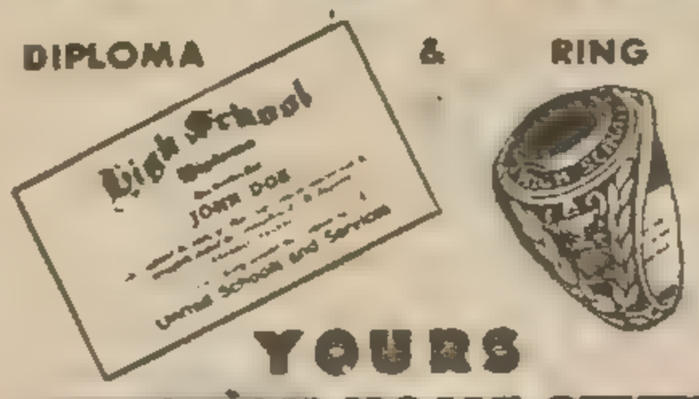

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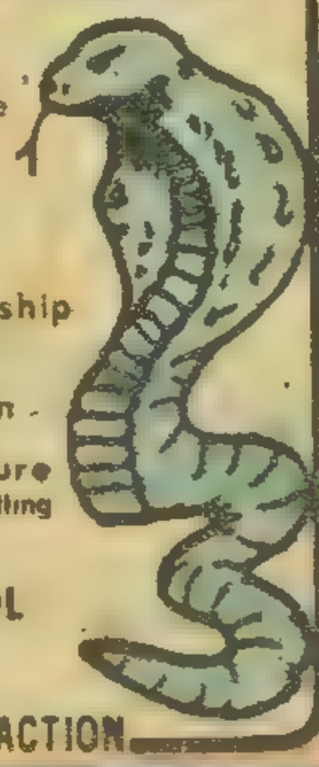

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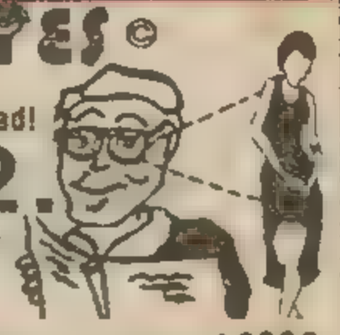

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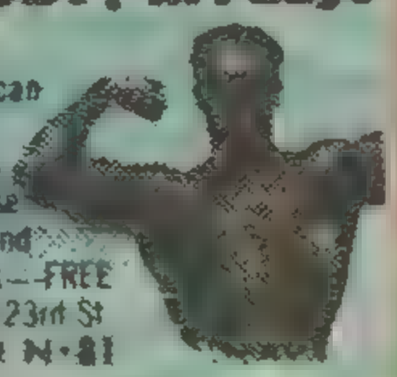

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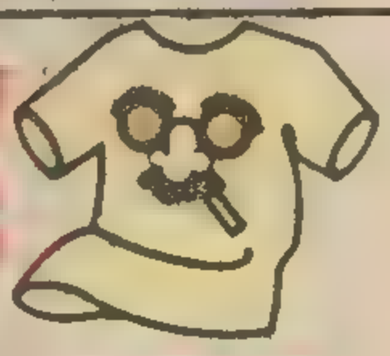

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SIERRA MADRE, MEXICO. MAY 22, 1867:

THUNK!

HOOOOSH!

ACH DU LIEBER! THEY HAVE *FOUND* US AGAIN, SGT. DUMEZ!

MACH SCHNELL!

IN THE LATER PART OF THE *19TH CENTURY*, THE WORLD WAS *TORN* BY WAR AND REVOLUTION... AND ONE MAN *FOUGHT* IN THE *SHADOW* OF THESE *UPHEAVALS*, A MAN WHOSE *TRUE* NAME WAS *UNKNOWN*--THE *MASTER-SPY* CALLED...

ROFA

NIGHT HAS LONG SINCE FALLEN OVER THE TREACHEROUS FOOTHILLS, YET THESE MEN *DARE* NOT LET THE DARKNESS HALT THEIR PROGRESS TOWARDS THE *SUMMIT*--AND THE WAY *ESCAPE*.

WHY HAVE WE *STOPPED*, MONSIEUR? THE *INSURGENTS* ARE ON OUR TAILS!

WE MUST WAIT UNTIL *DAWN*, MEIN FREUND! WITH THESE ROCKS AS *COVER*, WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF, OUI?

THE AMBASSADOR'S SON AFFAIR

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STAY *DOWN*, MON PETIT PRINCE!

I-I AM SO *FRIGHTENED*, HERR ROSA! T-THOSE MEN ... *WHY* DO THEY WISH TO *KILL* ME?

HUSH, RUDOLPH! YOUR UNCLE, *ARCHDUKE MAXIMILIAN*, HAS CHARGED ME WITH YOUR *SAFE CONDUCT* FROM MEXICO--

--AND I *DO NOT* FAIL MY CHARGES!

THE MEXICANS HAVE *REBELLED* AGAINST MAXIMILIAN'S *RULE* HERE AND, ALAS, WILL NOT *REST* UNTIL HE AND HIS KIN ARE DEAD OR EXPELLED!

BUT THEY *SHAN'T* VENT THEIR BLOODLUST ON *YOU*, MI AMIGO *POCO*! OF THAT YOU CAN BE *SURE*!

THEN... THEN I AM GOING *HOME*-- TO *AUSTRIA*!?

DA-- NOW, SETTLE DOWN, NIÑO. YOUR DANGER IS NOT AS *GREAT* AS YOU THINK. WHY, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE... BUT, *NYET*!

DO NOT STOP, HERR ROSA! *BITTE*-- TELL ME YOUR STORY!

HMMM. VERY WELL, MON PRINCE. BUT IT IS *BEST* I BEGIN AT THE *BEGINNING*...

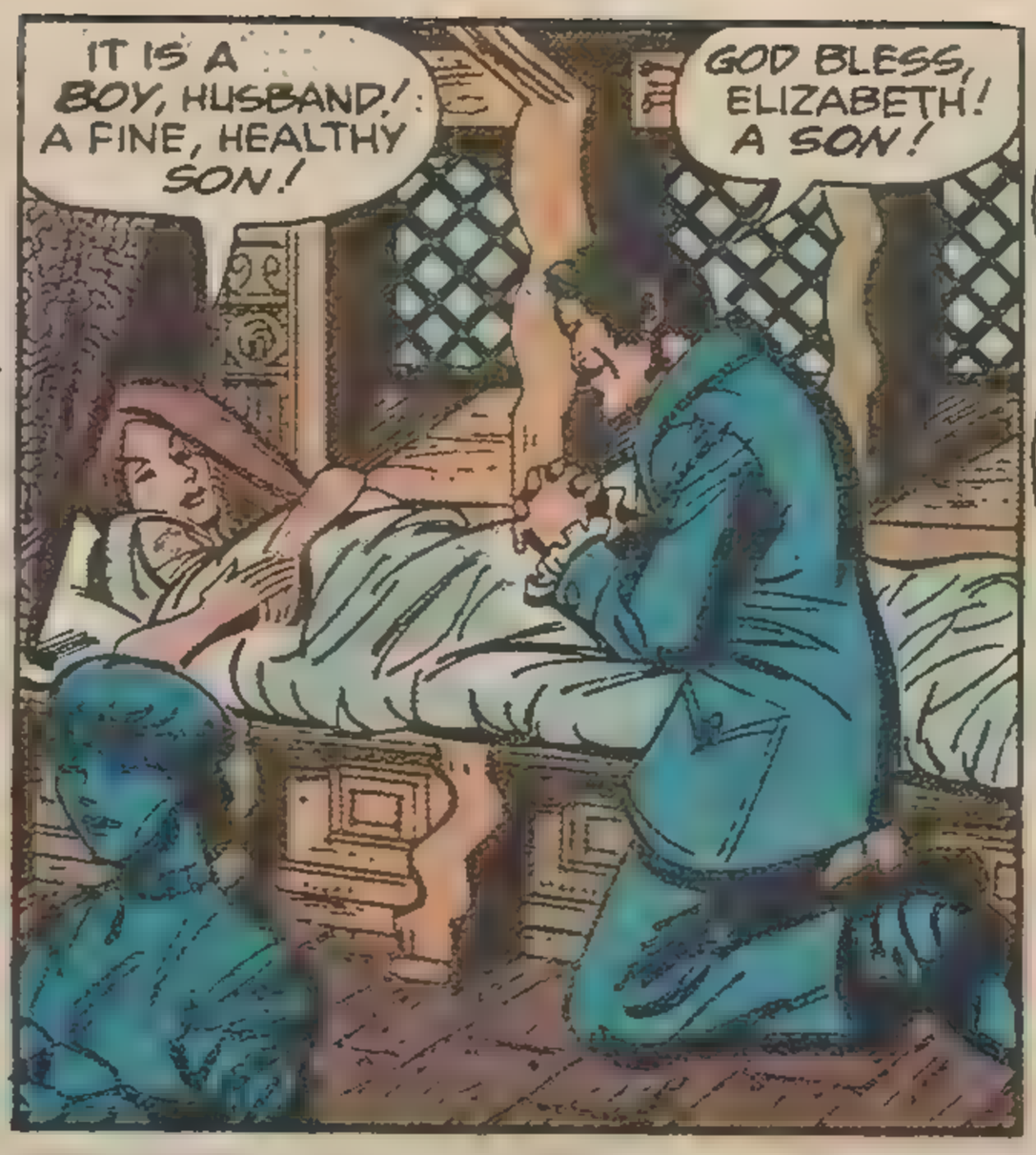
SOMEWHERE IN MID-ATLANTIC. JUNE 14, 1835:

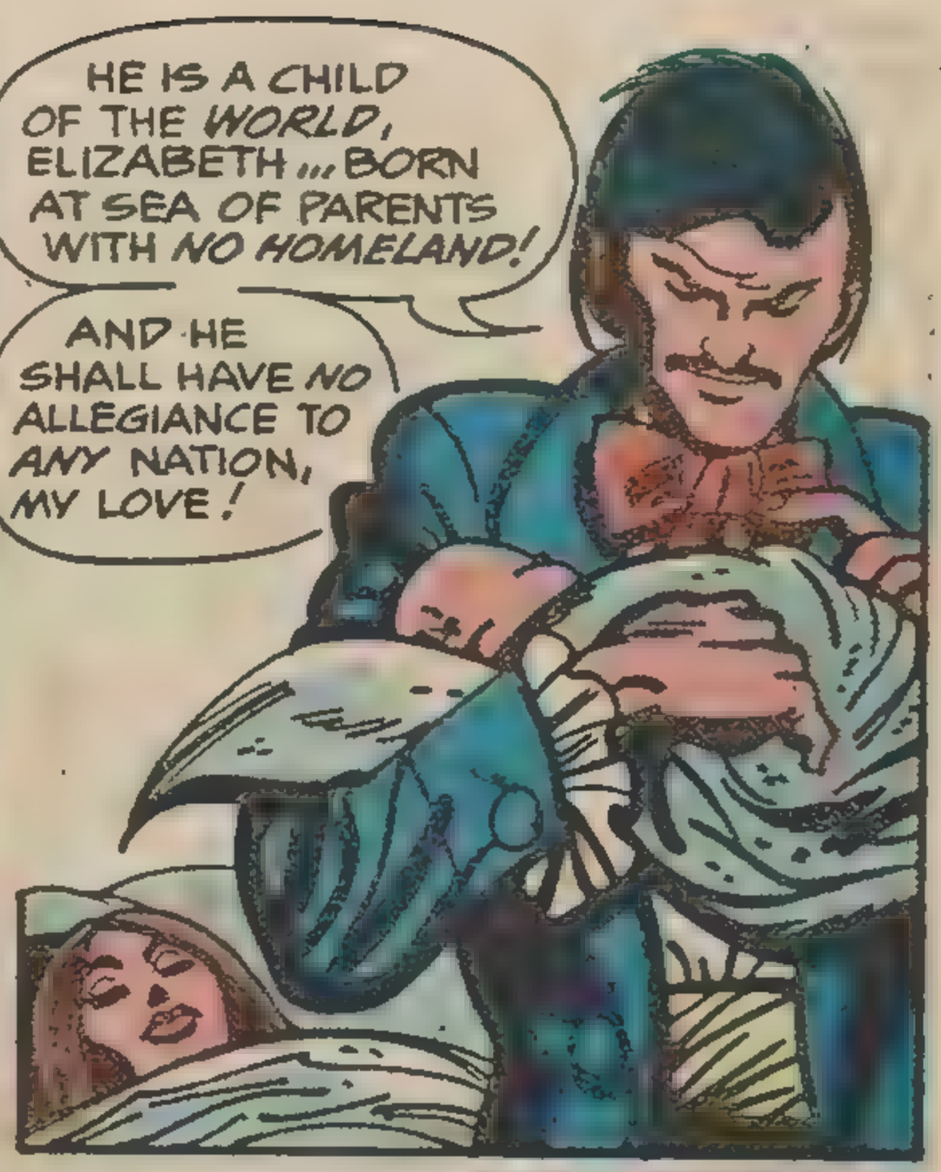
THIS MAN'S NAME IS *UNIMPORTANT*. SUFFICE IT TO SAY HE WAS *ONCE AMBASSADOR* FROM ONE OF THE MOST *POWERFUL* NATIONS ON EARTH.

BUT THAT WAS *BEFORE* THE SCANDAL THAT SULLIED HIS NAME AND *DESTROYED* HIS *USEFULNESS* AS HIS COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE--

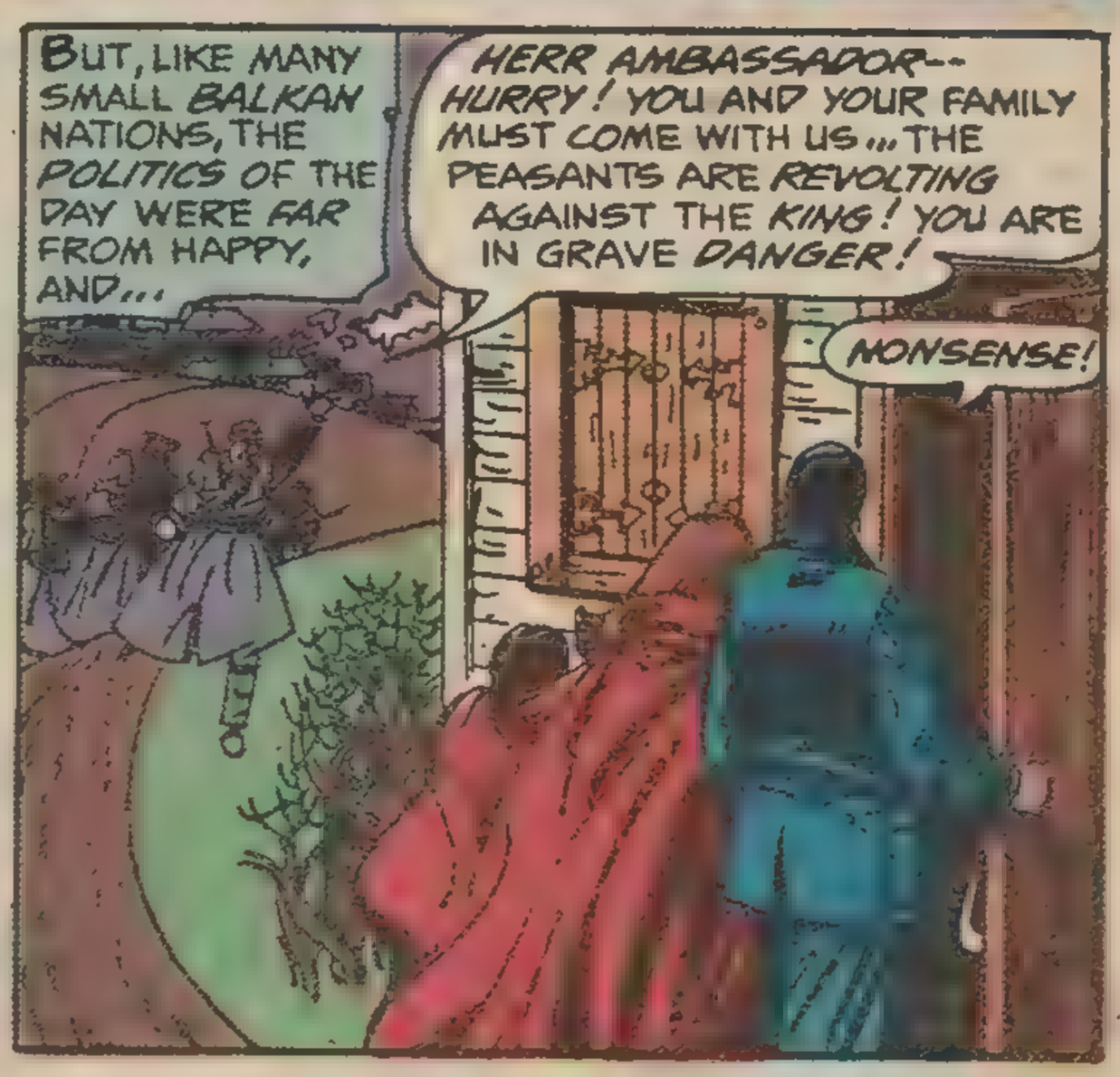
--AND CAUSED HIM TO *RENOUNCE* HIS *CITIZENSHIP* TO HIS HOMELAND...

HE AND HIS WIFE *FLED* THEIR SHAME, HOPING TO START THEIR LIVES *ANEW*-- -- AND PERHAPS-- JUST *PERHAPS* -- THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD HERE IS AN *OMEN* FOR A *GOOD BEGINNING*...

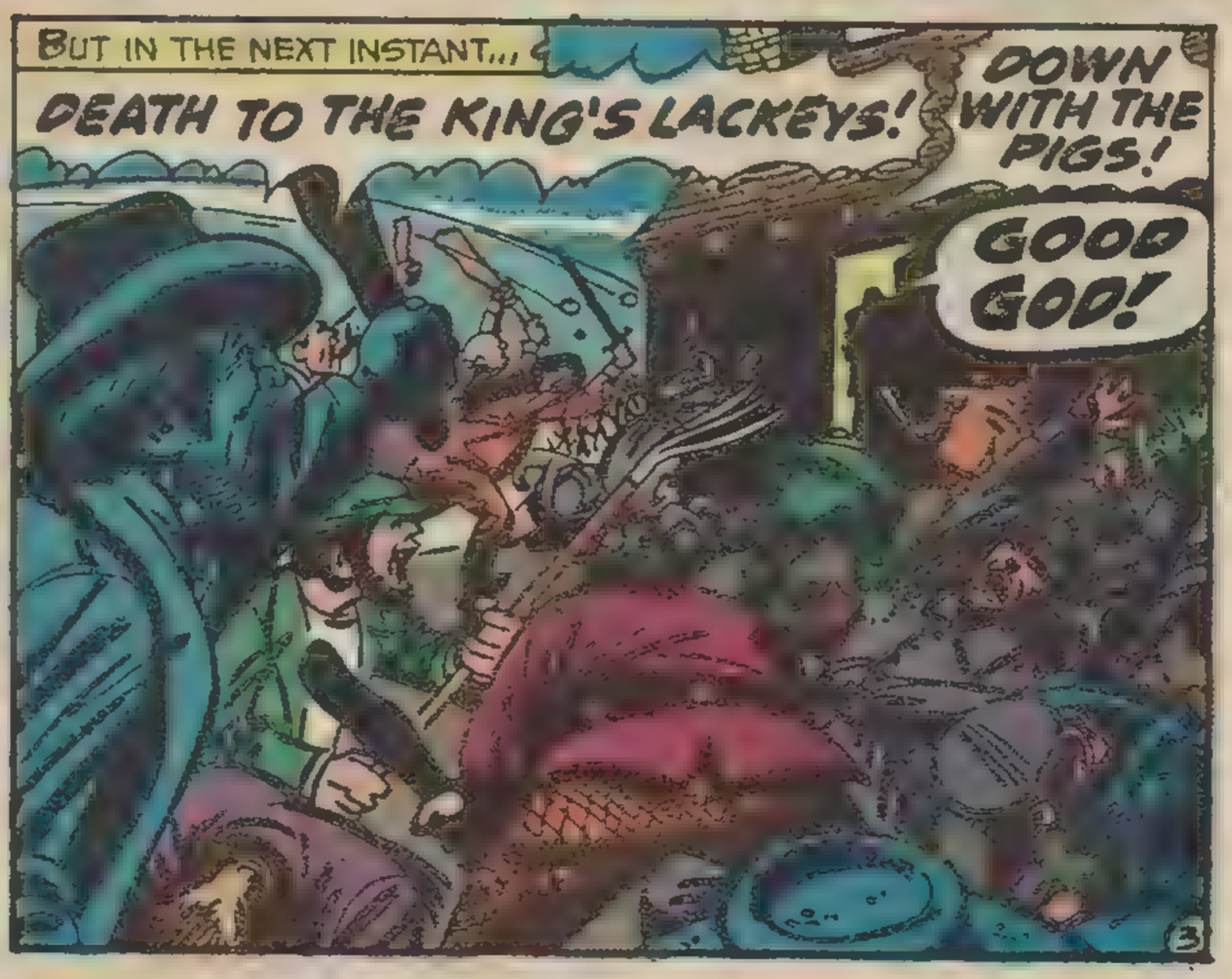



HE IS A CHILD OF THE *WORLD*, ELIZABETH ... BORN AT SEA OF PARENTS WITH *NO HOMELAND*!
AND HE SHALL HAVE *NO* ALLEGIANCE TO *ANY* NATION, MY LOVE!

THE YEARS PASS AND THE BABY GROWS TO CHILDHOOD. WITH HIS *EXPATRIATE* PARENTS HE TRAVELS THE *WORLD*, LEARNING THE WAYS AND LANGUAGES OF MANY OF ITS NATIONS.
AND TOGETHER THEY ARE *HAPPY*...


BUT, LIKE MANY SMALL *BALKAN* NATIONS, THE *POLITICS* OF THE DAY WERE *FAR* FROM HAPPY, AND...
*HERR AMBASSADOR-- HURRY! YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MUST COME WITH US ... THE PEASANTS ARE *REVOLTING* AGAINST THE *KING*! YOU ARE IN GRAVE *DANGER*!
NONSENSE!

WE ARE MERELY *VISITORS* IN YOUR COUNTRY. WHY WOULD THE PEASANTS WISH *US* HARM?
A *MOB* DOES NOT WORK ON *REASON*, MEIN HERR. I *BEG* YOU TO...
NO, MY FRIEND. WE WILL BE *SAFE* HERE.



SEE HERE, YOU MEN! YOUR QUARREL IS *NOT* WITH US! LEAVE NOW AND...

SILENCE, DOG!

NO LONGER DO WE OBEY THE *COMMANDS* OF THE WEALTHY *OPPRESSORS* WHO SEEK TO *ENSLAVE* OUR PEOPLE--

--NOW WE MERELY SLAY THEM WHERE THEY STAND!

MY ALLEGIANCE IS TO *NO* KING OR COUNTRY, PEASANT--*ONLY* TO MY *FAMILY!*

AND IF YOU INTEND TO BRING HARM TO *THEM*, THEN SO HELP ME GOD--

--*YOU SHALL SURELY DIE IN THE TRYING!*

IT IS NOT *I* WHO AM TO DIE THIS DAY, PIG!

THE RAGING MOB FALLS *SILENT* AS THE TWO MEN MEET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM.

ONE, A MAN WHO FIGHTS FOR AN *IDEAL*...WHOSE *ZEAL* HAS PERHAPS CAUSED HIM TO *FORGET* THOSE IDEALS IN THE *HEAT* OF THE *MOMENT*...

HE BATTLES FOR *MORE* THAN A MERE IDEOLOGY... HE BATTLES FOR THE LIVES THAT MEAN MORE TO HIM THAN HIS *OWN!*

AND THE *OTHER?*

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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BUT IDEOLOGY, ALAS, *WINS OUT* OVER FAMILY DEVOTION--

UNNNNHH!

FATHER!

--AND THE FORMER AMBASSADOR'S *VALIANT SACRIFICE*--

...N-NO.. PLEASE...

--IS IN *VAIN!*

...NOOOOO...

--AND SUDDENLY HE IS *ALONE!*

BUT HIS *SPIRIT* IS *STRONG* ... MADE THUS BY THE HORRORS HE HAS WITNESSED IN HIS SHORT LIFE.

AND AS THE YEARS GO BY, HE *ADAPTS*, BECOMING ONE OF THE *THOUSANDS* OF HOMELESS *URCHINS* WHO ROAM THE EUROPEAN SOIL...

BUT PERHAPS NOT *ENTIRELY*, FOR WITH A STRENGTH AND SPEED *UNNATURAL* FOR A CHILD OF TEN, THE TERRIFIED BOY FLEES THE HOUSE OF HIS PARENTS' *MURDER*

THE DAYS PASS IN A HAZE AS THE BOY NEITHER SLEEPS NOR EATS, MERELY *CRIES*, MOURNING HIS LOSS TO A *CRUEL FATE!*

AND AS HE GROWS TO MANHOOD, SO GROWS HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE *WAYS* OF THE *STREETS*...

ONE DAY, MANY YEARS LATER...

'ELLO, MATE! MIND IF I SIT DOWN?

SIT IF YOU WISH. I DO NOT *OWN* THIS PLACE!

YOU'VE 'EARD WE'RE FIGHTING A WAR IN THE *CRIMEA*, MATE? US AND THE FRENCH AGAINST THE...

OUI! SO?

WE'RE *RECRUITING* SOLDIERS, GUV'NOR.

AS I SAY, SO?

WELL, *YOU* LOOK LIKE *YOU'D* MAKE RUDDY *GOOD* FIGHTIN' MATERIAL.

I AM NOT INTERESTED, MONSIEU... EH?

WOK!

THUD! CRACK!

THOK!

LIKE I SAID, MATE, YOU'RE GONNA MAKE RUDDY **GOOD** FIGHTIN' MATERIAL! WOT?

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

ROSA

6

THE DC FEATURE PAGE

F-113

Q: How much is *SUPERMAN* #72 worth?—Matt Flynn. *A*: In good condition, $7.

Q: Could you tell me what appeared in the issues of *DC SPECIAL SERIES* from #1 through #16?—Jesus Aquino. *A*: #1 was *FIVE-STAR SUPER-HERO SPECTACULAR*; #2, *SWAMP THING*; #3, *SGT. ROCK*; #4, *UNEXPECTED*; #5, *SUPERMAN*; #6, *SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS*; #7, *GHOSTS*; #8, *BRAVE & BOLD*; #9, *WONDER WOMAN*; #10, *SECRET ORIGINS OF SUPER-HEROES*; #11, *THE FLASH*; #12, *SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE*; #13, *SGT. ROCK*; #14, *SWAMP THING*; #15, *BATMAN*; and #16, *JONAH HEX*.

Q: Can *Superman* control his molecules the way *The Flash* does?—Charles Winter. *A*: No.

Q: Will *The Atom* be appearing anywhere soon?—Mike Thigpen. *A*: The Tiny Titan will be appearing in *WORLD'S FINEST* #260.

Q: Are there Earth-2 *Super Friends*?—Eddie Buker. *A*: No.

Q: How much would *WONDER WOMAN* #1 be worth?—Derik Turner. *A*: $135 in good condition.

Q: What is Linda (*Supergirl*) Danvers' occupation?—Damon Gardner. *A*: She's a student advisor at the New Athens School.

Q: Do the wives of the *Justice Leaguers* know all the members' seeret identities?—D. Kamman. *A*: *Hawkgirl* does, but the rest of the wives know only their husbands' secrets.

Q: What would happen to *Superman* if he flew through a yellow sun?—Terry Comeau. *A*: Nothing.

Q: Where did *Karate Kid* first appear?—John Frec. *A*: In the *Legion* tale in *ADVENTURE* #346.

Q: How about publishing a book of all the covers to every issue *DC* has ever published?—Kurt Baum. *A*: Why?

Q: What size T-shirt do you wear?—Brad Weible. *A*: Large. (Are you planning on sending me one?)

Q: How about publishing a *Legion of Super-Heroes* handbook?—Jim Pierce. *A*: The closest thing to it was *AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS* #9, which was a sell-out. You might be able to get a copy from a back-issues dealer.

Q: Who were the original members of the *Justice League*?—M.G. Stembridge. *A*: *Superman, Batman, The Flash, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Aquaman*, and *J'onn J'onzz*.

Q: What happens to *Flash*'s clothes when he puts on his costume?—Robert McCain. *A*: They're under his costume.

Q: Who is Jason Bard?—John Spalaro. *A*: A private detective. He used to date *Batgirl*, is a friend of *Batman*, and is currently the partner of Kirk (*Man-Bat*) Langstrom.

Q: Could you send the Comicmobile to Boston?—Lee Thurston. *A*: The Comicmobile was retired about five years ago. If you have trouble getting issues, why not subscribe at the bargain rates advertised in recent issues. (You've only got till October 1st, so hurry.)

dc profiles number 53

* alex saviuk *

Don't let anyone fool you. Drawing comics is a lot of work. It takes more than just skill. It also takes a great deal of patience, dedication, and sweat.

And when you're a self-taught artist as Alex Saviuk is, it takes even more of those attributes than usual.

Alex puts a tremendous amount of work into each page that he pencils. And in the two years that Alex has been working for *DC*, he's pencilled a lot of pages—for *THE FLASH*, *GREEN LANTERN*, and *ACTION COMICS*, in addition to some covers, and a war story and three mystery stories early in his career.

Drawing comics was something Alex always wanted to do. His keen interest in these little four-color wonders led him to publish his own fanzine, *Freedom*, which caught the attention of *DC* President Sol Harrison at the May 1977 Creation Comics Convention in New York City. It was Sol himself who asked Alex if he'd be interested in a career in comics. Would he!? The next week Alex made an appointment to see then-*DC* Art Director, Vince Colletta. He walked out of the office with his first assignment.

It wasn't too long after that when Alex was asked to pencil the story in *GREEN LANTERN* #100—a special double issue—and "another issue or two" after that. Alex couldn't believe his luck. "For me," he says, "*Green Lantern* is Number One. He was always my favorite hero in comics."

Those three issues turned into six, then Alex was called back to pencil more fill-ins on his favorite book to give the regular artist a chance to catch up, and finally Alex was named as the regular artist for *Green Lantern*. Shortly thereafter, Alex was also given *THE FLASH* to pencil each month.

Unfortunately for an artist like Alex, who sweats and struggles over each panel to make it as good as possible, the strain of producing two complete comics a month began to wear him down, so he decided to reduce the quantity of his comics work and concentrate on improving the quality. Currently, he's pencilling *Jimmy Olsen* for *SUPERMAN FAMILY* and *The Atom* for *ADVENTURE COMICS*.

"The best thing about working in comics," says the ebullient Alex, "is fulfilling a lifelong dream — being able to draw the heroes I grew up with."

"I only wish," he adds, echoing the sentiments of many comics creators, "that there were some way to eliminate deadlines so I could work longer and improve upon each panel—to make it better for the readers and for myself."

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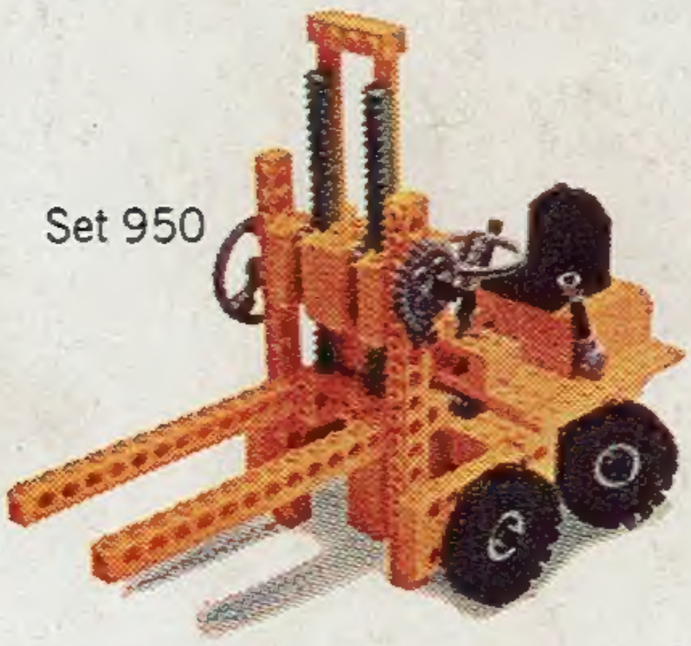

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